

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 4 and 8 and amend the claims as follows:

1. (presently amended) A method for echo reduction, comprising:
~~setting a predetermined time period having an expiration;~~
~~initializing a timer to operate for said predetermined time period at a start of a~~
~~transmission of communication signals; and~~
attenuating communication signals at the start of ~~said a~~ transmission until at least one of:
(i) an said expiration of said a predetermined time period; or
(ii) receipt of one or more signals from one or more echo cancellers indicating that echo
signals are cancelled below a threshold. ~~to reduce amplitudes of echo signals prior to~~
~~echo cancellation.~~
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving one or more echo canceller signals from said one or more echo cancellers; and
adjusting an attenuation value based on the echo canceller signals to attenuate the
communication signals.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing for one or more attenuation values; and
attenuating the communication signals based on the attenuation values.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

setting the attenuation values based on an estimated effectiveness of the said one or more echo cancellers from the start of the communication.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A method for echo reduction, comprising:

detecting a start of a communication;

receiving one or more signals from one or more echo cancellers indicating that echo signals are cancelled below a threshold; and

attenuating communication signals of the communication for a predetermined time to reduce amplitudes of echo signals based on the signals received from the echo cancellers prior to echo cancellation.